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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/525,552	02/24/2005	Hans Wagener	VO-703	6070

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EXAMINER	
LEON, EDWIN A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2833	

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/525,552	WAGENER, HANS	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Edwin A. León	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *24 February 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-15* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *24 February 2005* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *8/05*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rittal-Werk (DE Patent No. 197 14 839). With regard to Claim 1, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses a busbar system, having a mounting unit (41) for receiving busbars (10.910-12), and at least one device adapter (10) which has a receiving bridge (10.2) for receiving one of terminals (20) and devices (20.9), and is embodied for electrical connection with the busbars, wherein the mounting unit embodied in cross section as a shallow U-shaped through with a base section (42) has holding segments (44-47) along lateral longitudinal edge sections, which extend parallel with each other, and on two oppositely located end sections the at least one adapter has a first and a second fastening section (10.5), matched to the edge sections to which they are assignable, and have holding elements (10.6) which work together with the holding segments for fixing the adapter in place, the busbar system comprising: for fixing the busbars in place in the mounting unit, electrically insulating busbar holders (40) are arranged transversely with respect to the busbars in a trough, and the busbars are seated on a

top of the busbar holder facing away from the base section in a lower part of the holder, and are fixed in place by a snapped on top (30).

With regard to Claim 2, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses the edge sections having strips (43, 45) which protrude from a mounting plane and on whose protruding end sections the holding segments are formed.

With regard to Claim 3, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses the holding segments being at least one of laterally outwardly angled holding structures (44, 46).

With regard to Claim 4, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses the lateral edge sections are one of angled off, and attached as separate angular profiled sections to the base section.

With regard to Claim 5, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses a first (45, 46) of the holding elements is embodied as a hook element, which can be adjusted against an opposing spring force for releasing the adapter, and a second (43, 44) of the holding elements is embodied as a hook element, which is fixedly connected with the associate fastening section.

With regard to Claim 6, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses a plurality of contact elements (20.2), which extend in a longitudinal direction of the adapter, are seated in an underside of the insulating receiving bridge, which faces the mounting unit by which an electrical contact with the associated busbars is provided and a connection with a connection section (20.4) is formed in at least one end section of the adapter.

With regard to Claim 7, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses the contact elements being at least one of springy and charged with a spring force so that a contact pressure

is created with a contact section of the contact elements on an outside of the associated busbars facing away from the mounting unit.

With regard to Claim 8, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses a coupling device (20.8) for attaching devices to be received is on the top of the receiving bridge facing away from the mounting unit, which can be electrically connected by connecting lines (20.2) via connecting receivers (20.10) in the top of the end section of the adapter.

With regard to Claim 9, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses the device adapter having the receiving bridge with a top facing away from the busbar to be contacted devices to be electrically connected with the busbars can be arranged, and on the underside contact elements for providing an electrical contact with associated busbars are arranged, wherein a first and a second fastening section (10.5, 10.6) are provided with holding elements for securing the adapter on the mounting unit outside of an area of contact sections of the contact elements, and are embodied on the underside of the two narrow end elements (Fig. 1) of the adapter.

With regard to Claim 10, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses the holding elements being hook elements, and at least one of the hook elements, which is adjustably seated.

With regard to Claim 11, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses the lateral edge sections being one of angled off and attached as separate angular profiled sections to the base section.

With regard to Claim 12, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses a first (45-46) of the holding elements being embodied as a hook element which can be adjusted against an opposing spring force for releasing the adapter, and a second (43-44) of the holding

elements is embodied as a hook element, which is fixedly connected with the associate fastening section.

With regard to Claim 13, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses a plurality of contact elements (20.2) which extend in a longitudinal direction of the adapter are seated in an underside of the insulating receiving bridge which faces the mounting unit by which an electrical contact with the associated busbars is provided and a connection with a connection section is formed in at least one end section of the adapter.

With regard to Claim 14, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses the contact elements being at least one of springy and charged with a spring force so that a contact pressure is created with a contact section of the contact elements on an outside of the associated busbars facing away from the mounting unit.

With regard to Claim 15, Rittal-Werk (Figs. 1-2) discloses a coupling device (20.8) for attaching devices to be received is on the top of the receiving bridge facing away from the mounting unit, which can be electrically connected by connecting lines (20.2) via connecting receivers (20.10) in the top of the end section of the adapter.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Hancock et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,916,574), Faulkner et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,442,135), Biermeier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,672,889) and Biermeier et al.

(U.S. Patent No. 5,938,461) disclose connectors similar to Applicant's claimed invention.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (571) 272-2008. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 10:00-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2800, extension 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Edwin A. Leon
AU 2833

EAL
December 8, 2005

TRUC T. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER